

**AMENDMENT**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide which encodes a polypeptide that comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) An Escherichia coli strain Top10/pXK99EdeaD deposited as DSM 14464.

13-33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 259 to 2130 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

35. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 that encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of the complete complement of SEQ ID NO: 1.

38. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the isolated polynucleotide of any of claims 5, 9, 34, 35 or 37.

39-43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously presented) A vector which is pXK99EdeaD deposited in Escherichia coli Top/pXK99EdeaD under DSM 14464.

45-50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously presented) A recombinant host cell of the genus Corynebacterium or of the species Escherichia coli comprising the vector of claim 38.

52. (Previously presented) The host cell of claim 51, wherein said host cell is of the species Corynebacterium glutamicum.

53. (Previously presented) A vector comprising an isolated polynucleotide, wherein said isolated polynucleotide consists of the isolated polynucleotide of claim 35.

54. (Previously presented) A bacterium of the species Escherichia coli comprising a vector which includes an isolated polynucleotide, wherein said isolated polynucleotide consists of the isolated polynucleotide of claim 35.

55. (Currently amended) A method for the fermentative preparation of L-amino acids which comprises

culturing a Corynebacterium glutamicum host cell, which has an attenuated endogenous deaD gene, wherein the gene is attenuated prior to culturing of the host cell

cultivating a recombinant host cell of the genus Corynebacterium or of the species Escherichia coli which produce the L-amino acid and attenuating expression of a nucleic acid

sequence selected from the group consisting of

- (a) an isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement;
- (b) an isolated polynucleotide sequence, or its complement, which encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- (c) an isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 259 to 2130 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement;
- (d) an isolated polynucleotide consisting of at least 30 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement;
- (e) an isolated polynucleotide consisting of at least 40 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complement;
- (f) an isolated polynucleotide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 that encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

56. (Canceled)